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HOUSEKEEPERS' CHAT

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Saturday, July 20, 1935

(FOR BROADCAST USE ONLY)

Subject: "NEWS NOTES FROM WASHINGTON." Items of interest to women, from the United States Department of Agriculture.

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Homemakers, do you want to buy a duck stamp?

If stamp collecting is your hobby, here's good news for you. You can now buy a 1935-36 duck stamp without ever meeting a duck. A new law, approved by President Roosevelt on the fifteenth of June, provides that anyone who wants duck stamps may buy them, in unlimited quantities, without having them affixed to a hunting license.

That's the first piece of news in our weekly letter from Washington. According to our correspondent, this new law "opens to the public the sale of the first migratory-bird hunting stamps. The 1934-35 stamp was designed by the famous cartoonist, J. H. (Ding) Darling, Chief of the U. S. Bureau of Biological Survey.

"The duck stamp for the 1935-36 hunting season is the work of another well known artist -- Frank W. Benson, who has been called the dean of American duck painters. The stamp is a beautiful thing -- three canvasbacks sweeping through the air, after taking off from the calm surface of a lake filled with water plants.

"These stamps are on sale at your post-office, one dollar apiece. You can buy them either singly, in block, or in full sheets of twenty-eight stamps to the sheet.

"Of course, if you really go in for hunting -- ducks or geese or brant -- you'll need a duck stamp and in many States a State hunting license. I'm not a hunter myself, but I'm an amateur stamp collector and also what the Bureau calls a 'friend of conservation,' so I'm entitled to buy my duck stamp.

"By the way," says our Washington friend, "you ought to know something about this modern stamp act -- the Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp Act, passed by the 1934 Congress. Nine-tenths of all the money from the sale of these stamps will be used in acquiring refuges for waterfowl. The remaining one-tenth will be used to administer the modern 'stamp act,' which requires that every one over sixteen, who hunts ducks, geese, or brant, must have on his person a stamp, across the face of which he has written his signature in ink.

"This is a good time to tell about how the first of the duck-stamp dollars were put to work. The funds, as we said, are to restore waterfowl breeding areas. Well, with the cooperation of the Minnesota Department of Conservation, the Biological Survey recently established the Talcot Lake Migratory Waterfowl Refuge, in Cottonwood County, Minnesota. With funds from the sale of the 1934-35 migratory waterfowl hunting stamps, the Bureau is restoring the area to its former usefulness for wildlife. This project is the first to be financed by the duck-stamp revenues.

"The Talcot Lake Refuge is regarded by the Biological Survey as an example of the results obtained when conservationists work together. The lake, destroyed by drought, is now being reflooded to provide habitat for waterfowl and fishing for sportsmen.

"About half of the 2,000-acre refuge is to be used by the Biological Survey as waterfowl breeding and feeding grounds. The remainder, including most of the lake proper, will be administered by the State for the benefit of fishermen and fur trappers. In accordance with Bureau recommendations, regulated fishing and trapping will be allowed throughout the area to such an extent as will not interfere with the primary use of the refuge for water-fowl conservation purposes," concludes our correspondent.

Now, if you want to learn about the wildlife conservation program, and the modern "stamp act," send for a copy of Circular Number 339, "A Program of Waterfowl Restoration." You can get a copy by sending your name and address to the United States Department of Agriculture.

By the way, this is a good time to remind you of two other popular bird publications, also published by the Bureau of Biological Survey. Farmers' Bulletin Number 1456, "Homes for Birds," is one of the most sought after, especially by small boys who like to build bird houses. The bulletin is illustrated. Then there's a bulletin on "Local Bird Refuges." That's Farmers' Bulletin Number 1644. If your family includes a bird lover, as well as a stamp collector, you may want to send for these bulletins.

And now, referring again to our correspondent's letter from Washington. She says: "While I was talking with my friends in Biological Survey, getting facts about the new duck stamp, one of them suggested that it wouldn't be right to give a duck program without a recipe. So -- here's the recipe -- not for the duck, but for the stuffing.

"Two weeks ago," she continues, "I told you about the new rice leaflet, which describes a poultry stuffing. It's delicious with roast duck, and you can use any kind of rice you like -- white, brown, or wild rice."

Well, homemakers, if you have already sent for the new rice leaflet, you have this recipe. It's on page seven. If you don't have the leaflet, but want to serve roast duck right soon, here's the recipe, briefly. It includes two cups of boiled rice, some chopped onion, chopped parsley, chopped celery and celery leaves, and some butter, or other fat. Seasonings, of course -- a little savory, and salt and pepper to taste.

Cook the chopped onion, parsley, and celery in the butter for a few minutes. Add the rice and the seasonings, stir until well mixed and hot -- and the stuffing's ready for the duck. It's good with roast chicken, too, and with boned cuts of meat -- lamb, pork, spareribs, fresh ham.

But after all, Saturday is news day, not recipe day -- and for those of you especially interested in today's news, I'll repeat the titles of the publications we've discussed. "A Program of Waterfowl Restoration" was the first. The others -- "Homes for Birds," and "Local Bird Refuges." You can get copies from the United States Department of Agriculture.

And, if you think a duck on the table is worth two wheeling through the air, the leaflet for you is "Cooking American Varieties of Rice," which contains the recipe for roast duck stuffing.

I'll be with you again on Monday.

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